

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Composition and Activities of the 201st Latvian Guards Division	DATE DISTR.	8 June 1953
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1. The 201st Latvian Guards Division was stationed in Riga (N 56-57, E 24-05) in the Krusta and Pernavas Barracks (see Sketch No. 1 and 2, pages 3-4). The summer camp of this division was in Carnikava, a holiday resort located about 10 kilometers northeast of Riga.
2. This division consisted of infantry, artillery, engineer, tank, and signal troops, as well as a regimental band of about 50 men. Most of the artillery troops were stationed at the Pernavas Barracks. Many of the other troops were stationed at the Krusta Barracks.
3. The Krusta Barracks appeared to house about 5,000 men. There were 10 barracks each housing about 500 men. Some of the buildings were larger, housing, perhaps, more than 500 men. Thus 5,000 was a minimum estimate. The following troops were observed in the Krusta Barracks:
 - a. About 2,000 Latvian infantry and about 1,000 Siberian infantry troops,
 - b. About 500 tank troops,
 - c. About 500 signal troops,
 - d. About 500 engineer troops,
 - e. Very few artillery troops,
 - f. Regimental band of about 50 men.
4. In this division, 75 per cent of the infantry officers were Latvians and 25 per cent were Russians. The technical units of the division had perhaps a little over 50 per cent Russian officers, with the remainder being Latvian. Of the NCOs in this division, about 80 per cent were Latvians and 20 per cent were Russians. Of the other ranks in the division, nearly all were Latvians, except for some Russians who were now residing in Latvia. The total number of Russians in the division did not exceed five to ten per cent. In spite of the high proportion of Latvians in this division, the majority of Latvians inducted into the

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391

25X1A

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- 2 -

Soviet Army served with units in the USSR outside of the Latvian SSR. Only a small proportion of those called up served in the Latvian division.

5. Karklins (fnu), a political officer, was the only divisional officer known to source. Karklins was of Latvian origin although he resided elsewhere in the USSR. He was unable to speak Latvian.
6. The division published its own daily newspaper, Latviesu Strelnieks, which bore an endorsement on one corner stating that the paper was not to be taken outside of the divisional area.
7. Latvians wanted to get into this division because the food was better than in the other Soviet divisions. A typical daily menu in the Latvian division was as follows:
 - a. Breakfast: At approximately 0700 hours. Tea and unlimited quantities of black bread.
 - b. Dinner: Between 1100 and 1200 hours. Gruel or cabbage soup; meat three times a week; fish three times a week; and one day a week only soup or gruel together with unlimited amounts of black bread.
 - c. Supper: At approximately 1900 hours. Usually potatoes, beet root, herring, and sauerkraut mixed together, plus tea and unlimited quantities of black bread.
8. The normal daily routine for new recruits was as follows:
 - a. 0600: Reveille, morning exercises including running.
 - b. 0630: Back to barracks, make beds, wash, clean buttons, and get dressed.
 - c. Approximately 0730: Drill for about ten minutes, a five-minute break for smoking, followed by political lectures for an hour, with another five-minute break at the end.
 - d. Approximately 0900: About two hours of technical lectures, followed by about half an hour given to the reading of newspapers, or to listening to someone reading a newspaper aloud.
 - e. Approximately 1130: Ten minutes of drill. Dinner, lasting about half an hour, followed by about 20 minutes of drill.
 - f. Approximately 1220: An approximate one-hour break after dinner. However, during this time recruits had at least four times to get undressed and into bed, dressed again, and go into the yard.
 - g. Approximately 1320: Recreation for one hour, followed by about two hours of drill.
 - h. Approximately 1620: About a five-minute break for smoking, then one to two hours of technical lectures, and an hour of political lectures.
 - i. Approximately 2020: About half an hour of drill, followed by supper. After supper, recruits were supposedly free, but actually they had to participate in various forms of social activities such as singing, dancing, and acting. Those not participating in these activities were drilled for a further half-hour.
 - j. 2230-2300: Everyone had to go for a run in the yard, and then went to bed.

Comment. The apparent discrepancy in paragraphs 7c and 8i regarding the recruit's supper time has not been clarified.

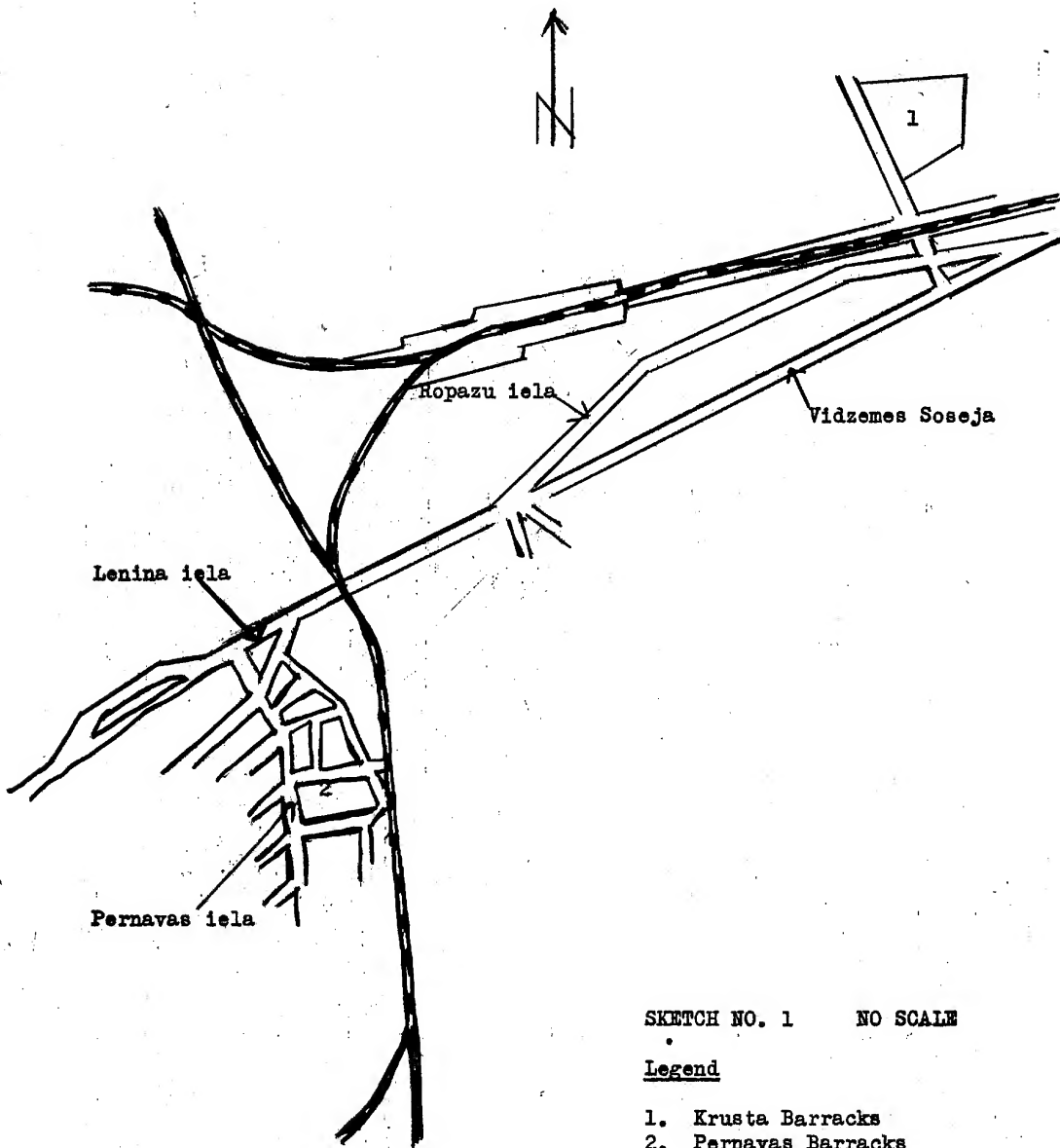
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- 3 -

Location Sketch of the Krusta and Pernavas Barracks



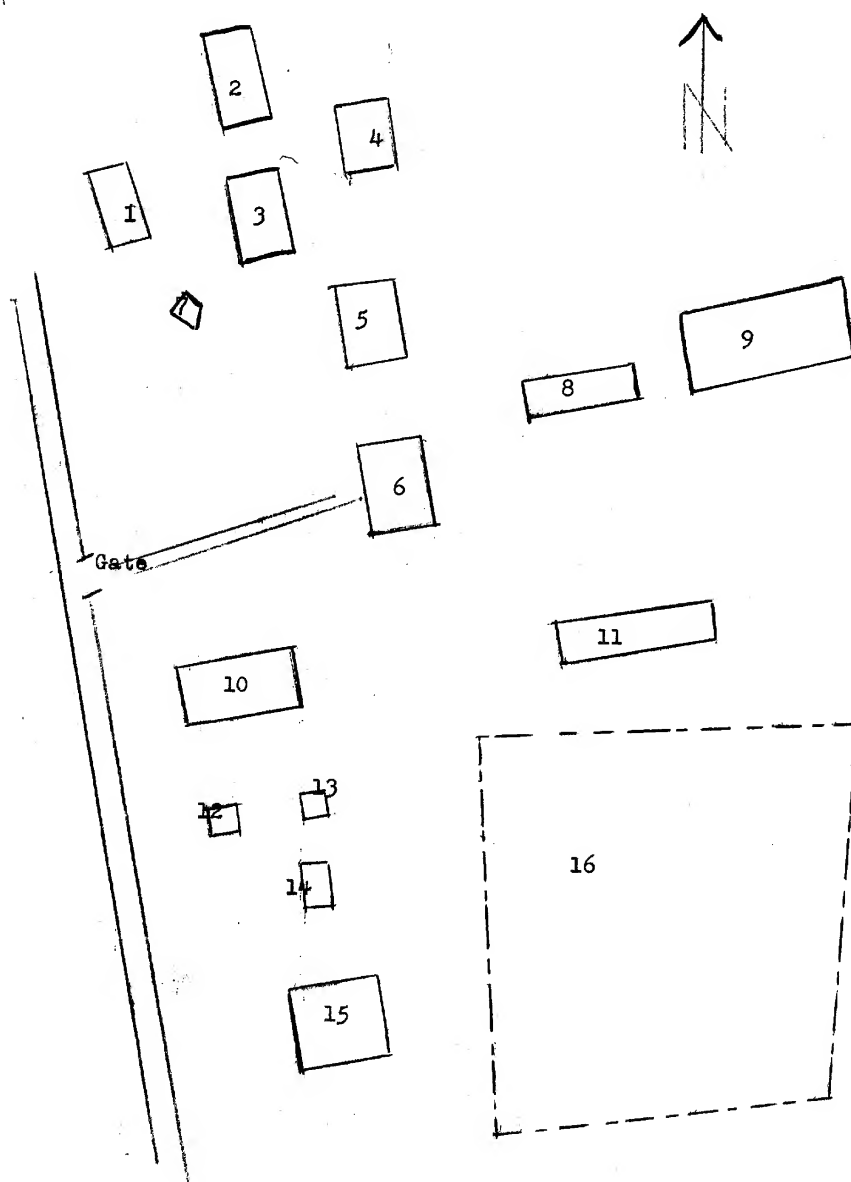
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- 4 -

Layout Sketch of the Krusta Barracks



SKETCH NO. 2 NO SCALE

Legend

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Sick Bay | 7. Cigarette shop | 15. H. Q. |
| 2 & 3. Barracks | 8 & 9. Arms store | 16. About five barracks in this area |
| 4. Stables | 10. Barracks | |
| 5. Barracks | 11. Mess rooms | |
| 6. Barracks, Tank Troops | 12. Officers' billets | |
| | 13 & 14. Officers' billets | |

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